In view of the above and the fact that the Central Universities have been established in 11 States/Unbn Territories, Himachal Pradesh is at par with many other States in the country.

Central education institutions in Himachal Pradesh

1244. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita number of Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh is less than the national average;

(b) if not, what is the number of Central Schools, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Pratibha Vidyalaya Schools in the State; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative the proposals for opening of more Central education institutions in the State during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are 20 Kendriya Vidyalayas and 12 Navodaya Vidyalayas
functioning in the State of Himachal Pradesh as on date.

The information in respect of Pratibha Vidyalaya Schools is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Does not arise.

Marriages on contractual basis

1245. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of young poor girls married on contractual basis for a short period to foreign nationals from the Gulf countries have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the agents and steps taken to rehabilitate such poor girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The